

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (**Currently Amended**) A method for producing a rubber-like elastic article, comprising the [[step]] steps of:

hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid latices in the state of latex to obtain a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid, and

subjecting a rubber composition comprising [[a]] said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 95% or more or a modified product thereof to molding/forming accompanied by vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in water,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of  $83 \times 10^4$  or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more, and

~~wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is an ingredient in modified latices obtained by hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid latices in the state of latex.~~

8-25. (Cancelled)